

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 MCE-00
TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /105 W
-----130859 021707Z /46

R 021412Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5658
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR EEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GR
SUBJ: MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: ATHENS 3472

1. ORGANIZED LABOR'S OFFICIAL CELEBRATION OF MAY DAY WAS HELD ON SCHEDULE AND WITHOUT INCIDENT ON MAY 1 IN ATHENS AND OTHER MAJOR URBAN AREAS. IN ATHENS, AT LEAST, LEFTIST FACTIONS WITHIN THE GREEK GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (GSEE) APPARENTLY BOYCOTTED THE OFFICIAL CEREMONIES IN ANTICIPATION OF THEIR OWN UNSACTIONED COUNTER-CELEBRATION ON MAY 4.

2. OBSERVANCES IN ATHENS WERE LIMITED TO A GATHERING OF ABOUT 1,000 GSEE OFFICIALS AND SENIOR CADRE FROM THE ATHENS/PIREUS AREA IN A DOWNTOWN THEATRE. NO RANK AND FILE UNION
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MEMBERS ATTENDED. THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER WAS GSEE SECRETARY GENERAL KARAKITSOS. HE MADE A RELATIVELY MILD SPEECH CITING INCREASED BENEFITS OBTAINED BY LABOR DURING THE PAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY INCREASES IN SOCIAL INSURANCE PAYMENTS, BUT ALSO REPEATED STANDARD GSEE DEMANDS FOR PRICE CONTROLS AND WAGE INCREASE TIED TO COST OF LIVING INCREASES. IN HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO THE

U.S., KARAKITSOS PROTESTED THE PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE
EMBARGO ON U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY.

3. COMMENT: THIS CAREFULLY ORGANIZED GATHERING OF
ORGANIZATION FAITHFUL WENT UNEVENTFULLY WITH NO EM-
BARRASSMENT TO THE GSEE OR THE GOG. THE GSEE LEADER-
SHIP ANTICIPATED SOME HEADACHES FROM THEIR ABSENT LEFT-
IST COLLEAGUES ON MAY 4, HOWEVER. AFTER THE MAY DAY
GATHERING, KARAKITSOS TOLD THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ADVISOR
THAT THE TWO COMMUNIST PARTIES AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S
PANHellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) ARE USING THEIR PARTY
ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE A MAJOR TURNOUT IN SUPPORT OF THEIR
FACTIONS WITHIN THE GSEE.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MAY DAY, LABOR UNIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS03577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780187-0119
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805104/aaaadkql.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7297a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 3472
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2525651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, GR, GSEE
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7297a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014